

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the data is transmitted using the Common Isochronous Packet Format defined in IEC61883.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of correcting timing errors when transmitting isochronous data through a packet based communication network in which at least some of the data packets contain timestamps which indicate to a receiver the time at which the data should be processed, the method comprising:

inserting transmission timestamps in isochronous data packets which relate to an absolute time as defined by a transmission clock and which are to be transmitted over a transmission network;

receiving the data packets and detecting and temporally recording the transmission timestamps therein;

providing a receiver clock which is synchronised in frequency but not necessarily in absolute time with the transmission clock;

storing the absolute time of the receiver clock when the first packet containing a transmission timestamp is received;

adding a given time offset to the stored receiver clock time, the offset being greater than or equal to the maximum variation in time between successive received data packets, to define the output time of the first of the received data packets;

subtracting the value of the transmission timestamp in the first received data packet from the transmission timestamp in each subsequently received data packet; and

adding the difference between the transmission timestamp of the present data packet and the transmission timestamp of the first data packet to the output time of the first data packet to define the output time of the present packet, wherein the data is MPEG encoded data and the transmission timestamps are separate from and independent of any MPEG timestamps, and the communication system operates according to an IEEE1394 standard.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of correcting timing errors when transmitting isochronous data through a packet based communication network in which at least some of the data packets contain timestamps which indicate to a receiver the time at which the data should be processed, the method comprising:

inserting transmission timestamps in isochronous data packets which relate to an absolute time as defined by a transmission clock and which are to be transmitted over a transmission network;

receiving the data packets and detecting and temporally recording the transmission timestamps therein;

providing a receiver clock which is synchronised in frequency but not necessarily in absolute time with the transmission clock;

storing the absolute time of the receiver clock when the first packet containing a transmission timestamp is received;

adding a given time offset to the stored receiver clock time, the offset being greater than or equal to the maximum variation in time between successive received data packets, to define the output time of the first of the received data packets;

subtracting the value of the transmission timestamp in the first received data packet from the transmission timestamp in each subsequently received data packet; and

adding the difference between the transmission timestamp of the present data packet and the transmission timestamp of the first data packet to the output time of the first data packet to define the output time of the present packet, wherein the data is MPEG encoded data and the transmission timestamps are separate from and independent of any MPEG timestamps, and the communication system operates in Asynchronous Transfer Mode.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of correcting timing errors when transmitting isochronous data through a packet based communication network in which at least some of the data packets contain timestamps which indicate to a receiver the time at which the data should be processed, the method comprising:

inserting transmission timestamps in isochronous data packets which relate to an absolute time as defined by a transmission clock and which are to be transmitted over a transmission network;

receiving the data packets and detecting and temporally recording the transmission timestamps therein;

providing a receiver clock which is synchronised in frequency but not necessarily in absolute time with the transmission clock;

storing the absolute time of the receiver clock when the first packet containing a transmission timestamp is received;

adding a given time offset to the stored receiver clock time, the offset being greater than or equal to the maximum variation in time between successive received data packets, to define the output time of the first of the received data packets;

subtracting the value of the transmission timestamp in the first received data packet from the transmission timestamp in each subsequently received data packet; and

adding the difference between the transmission timestamp of the present data packet and the transmission timestamp of the first data packet to the output time of the first data packet to define the output time of the present packet, wherein the data is MPEG encoded data and the transmission timestamps are separate from and independent of any MPEG timestamps, and the communication system operates according to a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System standard.

7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for correcting timing errors when transmitting isochronous data through a packet based communication network in which at least some of the data packets contain timestamps which indicate to a receiver the time at which the data should be processed, the apparatus comprising means for inserting transmission timestamps in isochronous data packets which relate to an absolute time as defined by a transmission clock, means for transmitting the data packets over a transmission network, means for receiving the data packets and detecting and temporarily recording the transmission timestamps therein, a receiver clock

which is synchronised in frequency but not necessarily in absolute time with the transmission clock, means for storing the absolute time of the receiver clock when the first packet containing a transmission timestamp is received, means for adding a given time offset to the stored receiver clock time, the offset being greater than or equal to the maximum variation in time between successive received data packets, to define the output time of the first of the received data packets, means for subtracting the value of the transmission timestamp in the first received data packet from the transmission timestamp in each subsequently received data packet, and means for adding the difference between the transmission timestamp of the present data packet and the transmission timestamp of the first data packet to the output time of the first data packet to define the output time of the present packet, in which the means for inserting the transmission timestamps comprises a Cycle Time Register and the data is audio and/or video signals encoded according to an MPEG standard.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, in which a plurality of transmitting and/or receiving devices each containing a Cycle Time Register are connected to an IEEE1394 bus and one of the Cycle Time Registers forms a Cycle Master which transmits a Cycle Start packet to the other Cycle Time Registers to maintain them all in synchronism.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 in which the communication system comprises a plurality of IEEE1394 buses coupled by transmission bridge(s) wherein the Cycle Masters on each bus are synchronized in frequency.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 in which the bridges are arranged to operate according to the IEEE 802.1 standard

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7 in which the communication system employs Asynchronous Transfer Mode.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7 in which the communication system is a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS).

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, the transmitting means including an MPEG encoder.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, the receiver including an MPEG decoder.

17. (currently amended) In a packet based transmitting/receiving network, a method of processing isochronous time stamped data packets, comprising synchronizing in frequency clocks in the transmitting/receiving system, storing the time (t_1) of receipt of a first transmission time stamped data packet, storing a given time offset (Δ) equal to or greater than the maximum variation in time between successive received data packets, and relating the time (t) of processing of a currently received transmission time stamped data packet to the time of processing of a first transmission time stamped data packet by the expression:

$$t = t_1 + (\text{delta}) + (T_n - T_1)$$

where T_1 is the transmission time stamp of the first data packet, and

T_n is the transmission time stamp of the current data packet.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A packet based transmitting/receiving network comprising transmission means for transmitting isochronous transmission time stamped data packets over the transmission network, said transmission means including a transmission clock, receiving means for receiving the isochronous transmission time stamped data packets, said receiving means including a receiver clock synchronized in frequency with the transmission clock and processing means for relating the time of processing of a currently received transmission time stamped data packet to the time of processing of a first transmission time stamped data packet, wherein the processing means further comprises means for storing the time (t_1) of receipt of a first transmission time stamped data packet, means for storing a given time offset (delta) equal to or greater than the maximum variation in time between successive received data packets, and means for relating the time (t) of processing of a current transmission time stamped data packet by the expression:

$$t = t_1 + (\text{delta}) + (T_n - T_1)$$

where T_1 is the transmission time stamp of the first data packet, and
 T_n is the transmission time stamp of the current data packet.

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, in which the communication system comprises a plurality of IEEE 1394 buses and the data is audio and/or video signals encoded according to an MPEG standard.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the data is transmitted using the Common Isochronous Packet Format defined in IEC61883.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the data is transmitted using the Common Isochronous Packet Format defined in IEC61883.